

Remarks/Arguments**Response to Objections to the Claims made in paragraph number 1 of the Office Action**

Applicants have amended Claim 16 to correct the misspelling correctly pointed out by the Examiner.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 4,798,603 to Meyer et al. (hereinafter Meyer). Claim 11 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer. However, Claims 7-10 were indicated as allowable in the last Office Action. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitation of Claim 7. Thus, Claim 1 and Claims 2-11 that depend on Claim 1 should be allowable. New Claims 25 and 26 also depend from Claim 1 and, thus, should be allowable.

Claims 16-18 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,546,056 to Good et al. (hereinafter Good). However, Claims 19 and 20 were indicated as allowable in the last Office Action. Applicants have amended Claim 12 to include the limitation of Claim 719. Thus, Claim 16 and Claims 17-24 that depend on Claim 16 should be allowable.

Claims 12, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Meyer and Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer. Amended Claim 12 and dependent Claims 13-15 now relate to a composite system that comprises an absorbent body that defines a length, a width and a height that includes a region within the length, the width and the height of the absorbent body that contains less absorbent material or no absorbent material and also includes a second material positioned in the region of the absorbent body that contain less absorbent material or no absorbent material. Meyer does not disclose an absorbent article or a composite system that comprises an absorbent body that includes a region within the length, the width and the height of the absorbent body that contains less absorbent material or no absorbent material and that also includes a second material

positioned in the region of the absorbent body that contain less absorbent material or no absorbent material. The region that contains less absorbent material or no absorbent material cited by the Examiner, wrap layer 30, is located above the absorbent body. Wrap layer 30 is not within the length, width and height of the absorbent body but is above the absorbent body. Specifically, the wrap layer 30 is not within the height of the absorbent body. Thus, Meyer does not disclose a composite or an absorbent article that includes an absorbent body that includes a region within the length, the width and height of the absorbent body that contains less absorbent material or no absorbent material. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 12, 13 and 15 as anticipated by Meyer is improper and should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 12-15.

New Claims 27-32 and 33-38 are directed to an absorbent article and a disposable absorbent article, respectively, that comprise an absorbent body that defines a length, a width and a height that includes a region within the length, the width and the height of the absorbent body that contains less absorbent material or no absorbent material as discussed with respect to Claims 12-15 above. Meyer fails to disclose, teach or suggest an absorbent article that includes an absorbent body that includes a region within the length, the width and height of the absorbent body that contains less absorbent material or no absorbent material than the remaining portion(s) of the absorbent body. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new Claims 27-38.


Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended are patentably distinct over the prior art of record. It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Stephens is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (770)-587-8620 should any issues remain after consideration of this response.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due or that are necessary to keep the present patent application pending to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.


Respectfully submitted,

WULZ ET AL.

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I, Christos S. Kyriakou, hereby certify that on August 30, 2004 this document is being sent to the Commissioner for Patents via facsimile to Examiner Jacqueline F. Stephens Salvatore at facsimile number: 703-872-9306.

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